

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154504
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 SS-15 HA-05
MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 L-03
/060 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN
APPROVED BY NEA:WRCRAWFORD
NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
NEA/RA:WDOZIER
NEA/EGY:DZWEIFEL
DOD/DSAA:EVONMARBOD (SUBS)
PM:DKEENE
H:BATWOOD
T:LBROWN

-----118745 171437Z /43

R 170041Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT:MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT MUNITIONS

1. ADMINISTRATION HAS APPROVED QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT SALES AS FOLLOWS:

(A) FOR SAUDI ARABIA:

AIM 7F SPARROW 909
AIM 9-J-1 SIDEWINDER 842
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(B) FOR EGYPT:

AIM 9-J-L-SIDEWINDER 647
MK-82 500 LB BOMBS 2,539
2.75" ROCKETS 12,123

2. QUANTITIES FOR BOTH COUNTRIES WERE DETERMINED USING STANDARD USAF METHODOLOGY POSITING THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM IRAQ AND PDRY AND TO EGYPT FROM LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA PLUS MAINTENANCE AND TWO-YEARS' TRAINING.

3. DOD INFORMED THE CONGRESS OF MUNITIONS QUANTITIES VIA A LOW-KEY CLASSIFIED LETTER JUNE 15. TEXT WILL BE POUCHED

TO EMBASSIES.

4. FOR JIDDA: DSAA DEPUTY DIRECTOR VON MARBOD WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA LATER THIS MONTH TO NEGOTIATE F-15 LOAS. WE BELIEVE HE SHOULD HANDLE MUNITIONS IN CONTEXT OF THESE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS RATHER THAN HAVE THE EMBASSY OR US-MTM RAISE MATTER SEPARATELY THUS PLACING IT IN AN UN-NECESSARILY PROMINENT AND POSSIBLY POLITICAL CONTEXT. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD SAUDIS RAISE MATTER OF MUNITIONS PRIOR TO VON MARBOD'S ARRIVAL, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH FIGURES IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND TO USE THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS:

-- IN COMPUTING AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S F-15S, WE HAVE EMPLOYED STANDARD USAF METHODOLOGY, A THREAT FROM IRAQ AND PDRY;

-- SAUDI ARABIA WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE THE FULL NUMBER OF

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MISSILES RECOMMENDED BY DOD THROUGH ANNUAL FOLLOW-ON CASES TO REPLACE MUNITIONS EXPENDED IN TRAINING;

-- DSAA DEPUTY DIRECTOR VON MARBOD WHO WILL SOON ARRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA TO NEGOTIATE F-15 LOAS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MUNITIONS QUESTION WHICH THE SAUDIS MIGHT HAVE.

5. IF SAUDIS SHOULD INQUIRE ABOUT SIDEWINDERS AND MAVERICKS WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE STILL OUTSTANDING FROM 1976 ORDER, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE PREFER TO HANDLE QUESTION OF EARLIER ORDER FOR SIDEWINDERS AND MAVERICKS AS A SEPARATE ISSUE ONCE WE HAVE FULLY DISPOSED OF REQUIREMENTS FOR F-15.

6. WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THE SAUDIS WILL FIND F-15 MUNITIONS QUANTITIES APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS. NEVERTHELESS WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REPORTING OF SAUDI REACTION DURING VON MARBOD NEGOTIATIONS.

7. FOR CAIRO: TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE QUESTION OF F-5 MUNITIONS FOR EGYPT WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING GAMASY

VISIT. DECISION ON LEVELS PRESUMABLY WILL BE REFLECTED
IN CHANGE IN LOA PRIOR TO SIGNATURE. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE
REASONS WHY THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED EARLIER, SUGGEST
MATTER NOT BE RAISED WITH GOE UNTIL LOA CHANGE IS
PREPARED. NEWSOM

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